

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Members present: Dr. Cohen, Dr. Krakow, Ms. Gianfortoni, Ms. Maher, Ms. Lefman, and Dr. Schlaff

Staff present: Dr. Balsam, Dr. Rudisch and Mr. Flanagan

Dr. Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:15. Ryan Flanagan, a medical student from Tufts, introduced himself to the group. He will be working with us this summer, thanks to a referral from Dr. Schlaff.

The minutes were reviewed. Motion by Dr. Schlaff, second by Ms. Maher to accept. Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONS

Ms. Lefman reported on Emergency Preparedness work:

MRC

UASI is giving us some funding to assist with the work on the Emergency Preparedness Buddies program. This will be very helpful to get the program moving forward.

The Brookline Police Department did a great job providing the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training to 20 Brookline MRC-CERT (women) volunteers. It was a very worthwhile 3 night program.

Brookline MRC members helped with the Lunar New Year celebration on 2/8 and some attended the great Friends of PH event on 2/6.

The Brookline MRC leadership meeting scheduled for last week was postponed and has been rescheduled for March.

Our upcoming training on the Coconut Grove Fire should be very interesting. It is scheduled for 2/27.

We are planning a town wide CPR/AED training during PH week. MRC members will be helping with planning and working the day of the training, as well as some will be attending the training.

Miscellaneous

The EP program with the police department for faculty and staff at Hellenic College was postponed (snow) and will be rescheduled soon.

Mr. Chin did a tobacco compliance check in Brookline last week, and one store sold tobacco.

He is working on gathering information to host a cessation program for those in Brookline Housing prior to the implementation of smoke free housing.

Ms. Maher reported the communicable disease reports have been relatively quiet. No big respiratory or GI outbreaks. We do have a couple of skin rash cases (herpes gladiator) on the BHS wrestling team which was apparently acquired at a regional match. MDPH issued an advisory since several schools/teams were affected.

We have a suspect typhus/rocky mountain spotted fever/Lyme disease case that is having difficulty reaching. Ms. Westley suspects it will probably end up being Lyme.

Ms. Gianfortoni reported on the activities of the Human Relations/Human Services division:

We have three recipients of the Adaptive Technology Grant. The grants will assist disabled students defray some of the cost of purchasing devices and other aids that would help them complete their academic pursuits.

The Commission's major focus this year is to have Accessible Taxi Service within the Town of Brookline. They have been interacting with the Transportation Board to ensure that the purposed medallion system includes medallions for Accessible vehicles. The current proposal is that 21 accessible vehicles be available in the town.

Human Relations- Youth Resources Commission

The Board of Selectmen recently appointed 7 new members and one reappointment to the Commission. The Commission now has the ability to have a quorum and make decisions. It still does not have a chairperson. The Commission continued focus is to explore the social culture of the Fire Department in light of a firefighter's claim of retaliatory behavior from fellow officers at his station.

Commission for Women

Recently had their annual Dress for Success Clothing Drive.

Domestic Violence Roundtable

There are several projects the Roundtable is pursuing:

1. Creation of two PSAs on Healthy Relationships. We are hopeful we will be able to air them at local theaters and BAT (now called BIG- Brookline Interactive Group).
2. Workshop on Domestic Violence Prevention for Clergy
3. Creation of material that promote healthy relationships. This information will be distributed at public events and places.
4. Collaborating with Parks and Recreation to incorporate healthy relations activities in their day programs.

Other activities included:

1. A very successful MLK day celebration which had Liz Walker was the key note speaker.
2. Working with Harvey Bravmen from Brookline Hub on the Youth Awards- scheduled for March
3. Working with Community Planning and Development to develop Fair Housing Month (April) material and activities
4. Updating Human Relation's webpage and materials.

Dr. Cohen reported on the Environmental Health division:

- The Sealer of Weights and Measures handed in his resignation this month. George Carroll has held the position for 13 years and will be a loss to the program. Fortunately, Mr. Carroll was training someone in the Veterans Department on the role of the Sealer of Weights and Measures. The Veterans Department started this program that linked veterans returning from the Afghan war with various departments in town. We are anticipating an application from this individual.
- Division is in the process of inspecting Body Art and Tanning establishments.
- Division has inspected and re-inspected just about all establishments for the Plastic Bag and Polystyrene regulations.
- Division continues to respond to complaints of violations of the Sidewalk Snow Removal By-Law. We anticipate a busy snow enforcement season this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Balsam reported that next year's Town Budget will be a BRIDGE budget, and no cutbacks are projected. The BRIDGE budget will be for one year, after which the Town will seek an override to fund the School.

The warrant for Town Meeting opens next week. We are anticipating several warrant articles related to tobacco control and, possibly, nail salons.

Two slates of Selectmen candidates are vying for two vacancies on the Board. Dr. Balsam has cautioned staff to be careful to not do anything to give the appearance of bias toward either slate.

Brookline and New England Treatment Access (NETA) were one of 20 medical marijuana sites/programs selected by MDPH. Now, a process to approve regulations and then take up NETA's specific proposal begins.

Payroll issues continue to plague the conversion to the new system. Everyone was paid correctly, last week.

The Citizen's Survey reached 1200 residents with an extensive questionnaire. Response rate was 35%. Results were impressive and will be released in the next week. Sorting the results by eight socio demographic variables is next, and using those data to create HEALTHY BROOKLINE: VOLUME 16, will be the task of Mr. Flanagan this summer.

Dr. Balsam reported on some security upgrades in our building, and the outfitting of the new fitness room.

CHNA 18

Ms. Lefman and Dr. Cohen reported on the very successful recent program linking health and the arts. The session was well attended, and Ms. Lefman will share the results.

On May 22nd, CHNA will sponsor a program on Culturally Competence. Details to follow.

FRIENDS OF BROOKLINE PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Cohen reported that the Annual Meeting went well. Ms. Maher gave a wonderful intro for Ms. Lubber, who was gracious in accepting the Leadership Award. Her remarks were inspirational and well-received.

Ms. Axelrod presented the Carlin Community Health Award to Steps to Success, and they also were gracious in accepting.

Dr. Cohen announced that the 19th Annual Public Health Policy Forum, moderated by former Governor Dukakis is set for Wednesday, June 25th at the Brookline Senior Center. The working title is "Health Care Reform: A Report Card". Details to follow.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ms. Maher reported on the very successful Climate Week activities. Highlights included a book signing at the Brookline Booksmith, numerous art installations, and the incredible Styrofoam collection day that required three trucks to accommodate all that was brought in

There being no further business, Dr. Cohen adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Balsam Ph.D., MPH
Director
Public Health and Human Services